with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. It has been decided to provide the VPT facility in all the remaining 8,405 uncovered villages also with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). As most of the uncovered villages in Orissa are located in remote areas, these uncovered villages will be provided with VPT facility in a period of two years.

Spectrum for 3G

1884. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) total availability of spectrum of 3G with details of bands for auction;

(b) whether Government plans to hold 3G auctions by itself or proposes to avail of services of an external auctioneer for the purpose; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that maximum revenue value is received by it from the spectrum through auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G Telecom Services, on 01.08.08 and certain amendments on 11.09.08. The spectrum will be granted through a controlled simultaneous ascending e-auction to the successful bidder.

Spectrum shall be auctioned in blocks of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz band. The number of blocks to be auctioned varies subject to availability in different telecom service areas. Details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Government has taken a decision to auction 3G spectrum and also to avail the services of a specialized external auctioneer. M/S N.M. Rothschild and Sons (India) Pvt Ltd, Mumbai has been selected for auctioning of 3G spectrum. The auction will be completed by January 2009.

Statement

Service area wise 3G spectrum available for auction

Sl. No.	Service Area	No of blocks of spectrum available for auction
1	2	3
1.	Delhi (Metro)	2
2.	Mumbai (Metro)	4
3.	Kolkata (Metro)	4
4.	Maharashtra	4
5.	Gujarat	2
6.	Andhra Pradesh	4

1	2	3
7.	Karnataka	4
8.	Tamil Nadu	4
9.	Kerala	4
10.	Punjab	4
11.	Haryana	4
12.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	4
13.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	3
14.	Rajasthan	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4
16.	West Bengal	1
17.	Himachal Pradesh	3
18.	Bihar	4
19.	Orissa	4
20.	Assam	4
21.	North East	0
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	4

Local call facility upto 250 kms.

1885. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local call facility upto 250 kms. has been provided in almost all the cities across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for making provisions of local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun for the benefit of the people of both the cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Sir, MTNL has extended local facility with 95 access as per the following criteria:—

- Access to adjacent Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) area.
- Access between Delhi and NCR towns.
- From One SDCA to another SDCA within the License service area of the provider.